

can move legislation. There was agreement made on amendments, there was compromise on those amendments, and that is what will happen as we proceed down the road. I know there is an issue dealing with whether one Senator can offer an amendment to have the extenders not paid for. That won't happen on this bill. Those who want to do that can do it on some other vehicle, but that won't happen on the housing legislation.

The supplemental. I hope we can reach agreement today to complete action on this bill that was passed by the House overwhelmingly—the House got 355 on that piece of legislation, with just a handful of votes against it. It was truly a piece of legislation that was important to be done. I am sorry, that was not the number on that, Mr. President, but it was passed overwhelmingly, the supplemental, and we need to do it here.

This bill includes the GI Bill of Rights, and it includes an unemployment insurance extension, which people are waiting for us to do today and the President to sign the bill. There are, of course, other domestic priorities, not the least of which is on the Medicaid regulations. Every Senator has received calls from their Governor about the importance of these Medicaid regulations. Passage of this bill will be a victory for the American people, and it is one of those rare instances where we have, as I have said on the floor in recent days, worked with the President, and he has worked with us, and we have a bill he is going to sign without any question.

Medicare. That is the bill that passed by a vote of 355 to 59 in the House. It is an extremely important piece of legislation. We have to complete that before we leave here. If we don't do it before July 1, everyone knows—well, when I walked out of my office, the head of the American Medical Association was there saying: Pass the bill the House passed. She is over there. She is a physician from Buffalo, NY, and she said it is one of the most important things we could do to help the health care delivery system in this country. The AARP yesterday came out for this legislation.

It is an extremely important piece of legislation. The bill is similar to the one drafted by Senators BAUCUS and GRASSLEY earlier this month that every Senate Democrat and nine Senate Republicans voted for. It represents the only chance this body has to head off cuts to doctors before they take effect at the end of this month. So we either will get an agreement today to pass the Medicare doctors fix or, when I have an opportunity, which will probably be after midnight tonight, to file cloture on that. If that is the case—and I can't do that before midnight—then that will mean a weekend cloture vote. So we have to do that. We have no alternative. Everyone wants to go everywhere because the Fourth of July break is coming, but we can't do that until

we complete that. I hope that can be worked out as soon as possible.

I am optimistic that this is going to be a productive day in the Senate, but I am also realistic that it may not be. Magic can happen, as I have indicated, when we work together here in the Senate. On Thursdays, a lot of that magic occurs, but it does not mean it is going to happen automatically. I hope it is not a continuation of being stuck in the sand and those wheels are spinning and spinning. I hope we can get something done for the American people today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

FISA

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, last April the Director of National Intelligence, ADM Mike McConnell, warned Congress about a serious flaw in the laws that govern our Nation's terror-fighting capabilities. New technologies had made our old electronic surveillance program dangerously out of date, he said, causing us to miss substantial amounts of vital intelligence on foreign terror suspects overseas.

In reaction to these concerns, the Senate passed and the President signed a temporary measure, the Protect America Act. The Protect America Act lived up to its name. We are told that from the time of its passage last August until its expiration in February, it allowed us to collect significant intelligence on terrorists and has been critical in protecting the United States from harm. But the Protect America Act had a signal failure: the telecom companies that may have helped prevent terrorist attacks were not protected from potentially crippling lawsuits. This was no small thing since without these companies, America wouldn't even have an effective surveillance program. Bankrupting the telecoms would be like outlawing fire hydrants—you could have the best firetrucks and the best firemen in the world, but you would still be incapable of putting out fires.

So after several months of new negotiations, the House finally devised and approved last week a revision of the original surveillance law that addresses the DNI's major concerns, including the important telecom protection. As the DNI put it in a recent letter endorsing the House-passed bill:

This bill would provide the intelligence community with the tools it needs to collect the foreign intelligence necessary to secure our Nation while protecting the civil liberties of Americans. The bill would also provide the necessary legal protections for those companies sued because they are believed to have helped the government prevent terrorist attacks in the aftermath of September 11. Because this bill accomplishes these two goals, essential to any effort to modernize FISA, we strongly support passage and will recommend the President sign it.

That is the Director of National Intelligence.

Passage of this legislation is long overdue. When the Protect America Act expired in February, the DNI warned Democratic leaders in the House once again about the need for an updated law. Yet House Democrats were evidently more concerned about the pressure they were getting from left wing groups such as moveon.org. They brushed the DNI's warnings aside and refused to take up and pass a bipartisan Senate-passed compromise bill that would have easily cleared the House. As a result of Democratic intransigence, our intelligence community has been handicapped in its ability to acquire new terrorist targets overseas. This was grossly irresponsible, and many of us said so at the time.

Now more than a year after the DNI made his initial plea, House Democrats have finally done the right thing. They have acted on the DNI's warnings by passing an updated surveillance law that meets his original criteria and which meets the criteria Republicans laid out during last year's debate—namely, one that gives the intelligence community the tools it needs to protect us, which doesn't put the telecom companies that made this program possible out of business, and which would get a Presidential signature.

Now it is time for the Senate to take up this bill and pass it without any further delay. The bill isn't perfect. I would have preferred for the Speaker to allow a vote on the Senate-passed FISA bill. But it does meet the DNI's criteria, and therefore its passage will mark a serious achievement, though long overdue, in the interest of our national security.

This hard-fought bill represents the epitome of compromise. The senior Senator from Missouri should be singled out for his outstanding work on this most important piece of legislation. He has done a service to the Senate and to the Nation by patiently working all of this out over the course of more than a year.

He was assisted in that effort by very able staff. Louis Tucker, Jack Livingston, and Kathleen Rice were invaluable throughout the process, to every Senator who was involved in this extremely important debate. They also deserve our thanks.

I will support this bill for all the reasons I have mentioned and urge my colleagues to do the same. We must pass this before leaving town and not allow it to be held up by yet another Democratic filibuster.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT TATJANA REED

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to speak for a brave woman, mother and soldier who has fallen. On July 22, 2004, SGT Tatjana Reed was tragically killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near her vehicle during combat operations in Samarra, Iraq.

Born half a world away, Sergeant Reed came to call Fort Campbell, KY her home. She was 34 years old.

For her bravery in service, she received numerous medals, awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart.

Born and raised in Germany, Sergeant Reed chose to make America her own, and she chose to enlist in the U.S. Army to protect it.

To hear Tatjana's younger sister, Rebecca Milliner, describe their time together as children, growing up in Germany sounds little different from growing up in America.

"She had to drag her little sister along to hang out with her friends," Rebecca recalls. But "she never complained about having to take me with her."

Tatjana graduated from high school in Germany, then later came to America as a young woman in 1991 and graduated from basic training in February of that year. The Army proved to be Tatjana's path to embracing both a new country and a new mission in life.

"She loved the Army," says Tatjana's mother, Brigitte Dykty, who also came to America from Germany around the same time as her daughter.

Brigitte remembers that before Tatjana left for Iraq, her daughter "told me not to worry for her," she says. Tatjana reassured her mother by saying, "It's my job."

Tatjana became an emergency medic and was stationed at Fort Knox, KY. The Bluegrass State became her new home. In 1993, she transferred to Fort Campbell, and also spent time in Kosovo. In August of 1998, she became an American citizen.

But perhaps the greatest gift in Tatjana's life was her daughter, Genevieve, who tucked a framed photo of herself into Tatjana's bags as a gift to her mom when she went to Iraq.

By the time she was deployed to Iraq, Tatjana was assigned to the 66th Transportation Company, based out of Kaiserslautern, in her native Germany, and served as a heavy-wheeled vehicle operator. At a memorial service for Tatjana, her fellow soldiers described the joy of working with her.

"When I first came to the 66th, Sergeant Reed was the first person I met," says Private First Class Melissa Cramblett. "She took me under her wing. She was a good person, a good [non-commissioned officer,] and she cared a lot for us."

Other soldiers described a caring woman who was a mother figure to the younger troops under her care. She translated German for the soldiers communicating with the locals, and brewed a strong cup of coffee that became the soldiers' favorite.

"She was an exceptional woman," says SSG Agustin Sarmiento. "There were no other words to describe her. She was a real tender, loving, caring person. She cared for soldiers."

The compassion Tatjana showed for the people around her was not new. A

story her sister, Rebecca, shared with me illustrates that.

When I was eight or nine I was rushed to the hospital to have my appendix removed," Rebecca says. "I was scared because I never had to stay in a hospital before. I remember waking up from the surgery and opening my eyes and looking at my sister. She said, 'How are you doing?' She started joking with me, so I would forget about my pain."

"She was at the hospital with me every day. That is when she became my hero."

Tatjana always called her daughter Genevieve "her little soldier," and so at Tatjana's funeral, Genevieve did not cry. To remain her mother's little soldier, she said she would cry when she was alone.

Tatjana's passing leaves a hole in the lives of those who knew her that cannot be filled. We are thinking of her mother Brigitte Dykty; her daughter Genevieve Reed; her sister Rebecca Milliner; her brother Torsten Wissmann; her stepfather Joseph Dykty; and many other beloved family members and friends.

Rebecca still remembers the shock of hearing the tragic news. "My sister was gone just like that," she says.

"The one good thing that came out of it [is] she now is a hero to millions of people and not just to me."

Rebecca and her family can rest assured that this Senate does indeed recognize SGT Tatjana Reed as a hero. And now, her adopted country will forever adopt her, as a brave patriot who made the greatest sacrifice for her Nation.

Mr. President, in Kentucky today a family mourns the loss of a hero and patriot. SGT William G. Bowling was tragically killed on April 1, 2007, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle as he was on patrol outside Baghdad. Sergeant Bowling hailed from Beattyville, KY, and he was 24 years old.

He received several awards, medals and decorations for his valor, including the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Purple Heart.

"This is the job he wanted to do," says his wife, Jennifer, about her husband's service. "He wanted to serve his country. . . . He really believed in what he was doing in Iraq."

In fact, this was Will's second tour of duty in Iraq. He was serving as a military police officer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, based out of Fort Drum, NY. Will enlisted in the Army in 2003 and then reenlisted in 2005.

The year of his first enlistment, 2003, was an important one for another reason. That year, Will had a job at Affiliated Computer Services, where he got to meet a young woman named Jennifer.

Their first date was on Groundhog Day; they went to see a movie. As he

and Jennifer grew closer, he described for her his desire to join the Army.

"He was at a point in his life where he just felt like he needed to enlist," Jennifer recalls. "He thought about joining right after 9/11, and he thought about it some more after that. It was just something he thought he needed to do."

"I knew something could happen," she adds. "But I supported him."

Will and Jennifer fell in love, and they were married on July 23, 2003, in Richmond, KY. On the very next day, Will reported for Army training.

Will served as an infantryman when he first enlisted, training at Fort Benning, GA, then reporting to Fort Drum. He was deployed on his first tour in Iraq in 2004 and reenlisted while on tour in 2005. Upon returning home, he trained at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, in 2005 and 2006 to become an MP.

Deployed on his second Iraqi tour in August 2006, Will patrolled the streets of Baghdad, and was part of a crew that found and detonated explosives before they could harm other soldiers or civilians.

Looking ahead, Will and Jennifer saw a happy life together. He thought of joining the Kentucky State Police and building a house for his family in Beattyville.

That family included Will and Jennifer's two beautiful daughters, Hannah Kathryn and Allyson Peyton. Sadly, Will never got to lay eyes on his younger daughter Allyson, who was born the day after his funeral.

"I sent him lots of pictures of the girls," Jennifer remembers. He "was very devoted to me and our daughters. [He] couldn't wait to return . . . and was extremely excited about the birth of the new baby."

Hannah and Allyson will not get to learn firsthand how their father loved the Indianapolis Colts and that his favorite player was Peyton Manning. In fact, that is where Allyson gets her middle name.

They'll miss hearing their father talk about his love of NASCAR and his favorite drivers, Dale Earnhardt and Dale Earnhardt, Jr., Will would even say half-jokingly that he wanted to be a driver someday.

"For our second anniversary, he got to go to the Kentucky Speedway to participate in the Richard Petty Driving Experience," says Jennifer. "He was so excited and had such a great time that day. I can still see the smile on his face."

Will liked to have water gun fights with his nephews, build things out of Legos and play a few video games. He enjoyed the bands U2 and the Foo Fighters and the comedian Dane Cook. And together, he and Jennifer would walk their dogs—Oreo, a Siberian Husky, and Java, a German Shepherd.

"He was just an outstanding, respectable man," says Jennifer. He "could be quiet at times, [but] loved to smile and laugh."

Will was the kind of man who collected many friends. Hundreds of people filled the Booneville Funeral Home

to say their goodbyes, and to recognize his bravery in fighting for such an important cause. I was honored to be able to write a eulogy for Will, which was read at the service.

Our prayers go out to Will's beloved friends and family members today. We are thinking of his wife Jennifer Evans Bowling; his daughters Hannah Kathryn and Allyson Peyton Bowling; his father, Adam Miller; his mother Kathleen Bowling; his parents-in-law James and Cathy Evans; his brother-and sister-in-law Jim and Roxanne Evans; his nephews Michael and Wesley Evans; his grandparents Chester Terry and Francis Bowling; his grandmother-in-law Kathryn Holloway, and many others. Will's grandfather-in-law, Frank Holloway, has also passed away.

Will also served alongside many brave soldiers in the Army, forging friendships that lasted a lifetime and beyond. We are thinking of SGT Billy Messer, SP Travis Tysinger, SGT Brian Marshall, SSG Billy Thompson, SGT Stephen Tucker, and SGT Arthur Briggs.

The town of Beattyville has honored Will by engraving his name on a memorial wall that is erected downtown. That's an appropriate way to remember Will as a soldier and a hero.

His wife Jennifer plans her own way of remembering Will as a husband, a father, and a man.

"I've bought a farm and I'm going to build a house exactly as we had planned," she says. "I will display his die-cast cars . . . and will put his Army memorials on display."

This Senate will remember SGT William G. Bowling for his life of service, and his enormous sacrifice. We honor his heroism in defending his family and his country. And we will not forget the example he has set for all of us—not least, his two young daughters.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 6327

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 6327—this matter was received from the House earlier further, that a Baucus substitute amendment at the desk which is a 3-month FAA extension and a highway trust fund fix be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. DEMINT. Reserving the right to object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

Mr. DEMINT. I am very supportive of the aviation bill. I do think it is inappropriate to add \$8 billion of unrelated spending without debate or amendment, so I regretfully have to object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am wondering while my friend is on the floor, the highway trust fund, according to the States, is upside down. There is not enough money in it. With the construction season upon us for renovation and repair of streets, highways, and bridges, I say to my friend: Would any smaller amount of money be satisfactory, say, \$6 billion?

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I appreciate the question from the leader. I think again it is inappropriate to make a decision on whether it is \$6 billion or whatever the figure is. Only a couple of months ago we were all here on a technical correction bill. We had the opportunity to take a lot of money that was saved from projects that were not needed. We talked at the time on this floor about the fact that the trust fund was short. But instead of taking that savings and putting it back in the trust fund, we used it to add additional earmarks and to put more money into projects that were there. So there has been no intent by this body to try to look at the problem with the trust fund. Certainly it is something we need to deal with but not as part of the aviation bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am disappointed but not nearly as disappointed as 50 Governors. This is a situation where the highways of this country are in desperate need of repair and construction.

With the economy faltering, as it is, and the housing market stumbling, this would be a tremendous help. For the \$6 billion, it would create about 300,000 jobs—300 thousand. For every billion dollars we spend, it creates about 47,500 high-paying jobs. The spin-off from those jobs is significant.

This would be vitally important to give our economy a little shot in the arm. So I am disappointed my friend has objected.

We are going to have to continue to work to try to replenish that trust fund. The trust fund is not adequately funded because of the fact that people are not traveling as much. They are not buying enough fuel at least to fill the trust fund. The price of gasoline, when President Bush took office, was \$1.46, \$1.47. Now it is an average of about \$4.12 a gallon.

We have real problems around the country. When gas was at \$1.47, the same tax came into the coffers to fill this fund. So it is an issue, and I would say to my friend, the technical corrections bill was just that, it was to take care of other things that were essentially needed at that time.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2008

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6327.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows.

A bill (H.R. 6327) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed; the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6327) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 3661

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 836, H.R. 3661, an act to extend the expiring Medicare provisions; that the bill be read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, there is obviously a great need to correct the problem of what will occur if we do not fix the doctors' reimbursement schedule.

But there are also more ways to do this than one, and the one that is being proposed is the House-passed bill by the majority leader. We would suggest that since the Senate should be heard on this matter and have the opportunity to put its ideas on the table, Senator GRASSLEY and Senator BAUCUS should have a chance to work on the Senate proposal; that we would rather proceed with an extension of the present Medicare provisions so doctors are not subject to a reduction in reimbursement for 30 days and allow this to happen.

I will be required to object to this on behalf of the leadership over here and myself. Then I would like the courtesy of the majority leader to ask unanimous consent for a 30-day extension.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my friend, this legislation passed the House by a huge bipartisan vote—359, as I recall, House Members voted for this.

Now, as far as putting the stamp of the Senate on this bill, we have already done that. We passed a bill. We had every Democrat and nine Republicans. That is basically what the House has sent back to us—that matter we took a look at earlier.

I say that the chairman of the committee, Senator BAUCUS, is 100 percent